

with a curious grass: It bore also abundance of fine lofty trees. Having walked some time, admiring the greatness of Nature's works, at some distance we perceived three things standing together, which I took to be houses; I believe, said I, this island is inhabited; for, if I mistake not, yonder are dwelling places. So they are, said *Alvarado*; and therefore I don't think it wisdom to venture any farther, lest they should be savages, and do us hurt; so would have gone back: But I was resolved to see what they were, and persuaded him to go on; saying, it would be time enough to retreat when we perceived danger, and if any people should come upon us, we must see them at some distance; and if we cannot avoid them, here are three of us, a good long staff, with an iron point at one end, and a hook at the other, I shall exercise that, and keep them off, at least till you get away: Come along, and fear not.

Being come near enough to discern better, we saw that, what we took for houses, were rather harbours, being apparently made of green trees: Then, indeed, I began to fancy some wild people inhabited them, and doubted whether it were safe to go nearer; but concealed my doubt, lest I should intimidate *Alvarado* so that he should run away, to which

he seemed much inclined. I took my pace, which *Alvarado* perceived that I saw some evil coming which was unavoidable; and not daring to leave his company, he only consoled himself, saying, he dearly repented that he was not with me.

By this time we were come to a ground pretty clear of trees, and



animals were feeding, these I took to be deer, but *Alvarado* fancied them to be some other kind of animal. However, I thought by their shyness that they were wild. In our judgment concerning the animals, I said, if they were inhabited, they would not have been so scared.